

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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APPROVED BY EA - MR. OAKLEY  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055674

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CHARGES OF INDONESIAN ATROCITIES  
IN TIMOR

REF: A. JAKARTA 2905 B. CANBERRA 1534 C. STATE 51528

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONGRESSMAN FRASER HAS DECIDED TO  
HOLD HEARINGS ON TIMOR, BASED OM JAMES DUNN'S CHARGES.  
DUNN WILL PRESUMABLY BE CHIEF WITNESS, AND DEPT MAY BE  
ASKED TO TESTIFY.

2. WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS PROMISED  
REF (A).

3. WE HAVE OBTAINED COPY OF 85-PAGE REPORT ENTITLED  
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"THE TIMOR STORY" PREPARED BY DUNN TO PRESENT AND DOCU-  
MENT HIS CHARGES AGAINST INDONESIA. FOLLOWING IS TEXT  
OF MAIN SECTION IN REPORT DEALING WITH ALLEGED INDISCRIMI-  
NATE KILLING OF TIMORESE BY INDONESIAN TROOPS.

QUOTE: THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLING BY INDONESIAN TROOPS  
OF THOUSANDS OF TIMORESE IS PERHAPS THE MOST DISTURBING

ASPECT OF THE INDONESIAN OPERATION AGAINST EAST TIMOR.  
FRETILIN REGULARLY REPORTED IN THE MESSAGES PASSED

THROUGH DARWIN THAT INDONESIAN TROOPS WERE CARRYING OUT "MASSACRES" AGAINST THE POPULATION AT LARGE, PARTICULARLY IN DILI, BUT THESE REPORTS WERE AT FIRST REGARDED AS CLUMSY EXAGGERATIONS. HOWEVER, IN MID-JANUARY TWO ELDERLY CHINESE, WHO WERE IF ANYTHING ANTI-FRETILIN AND WHO HAD REMAINED IN DILI AFTER THE INDONESIAN LANDING, MANAGED TO SMUGGLE LETTERS THROUGH KUPANG TO A FRIEND IN DARWIN. ONE LETTER REMARKED THAT THE KILLING IN THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE INVASION WAS WORSE THAN DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION, AND CLAIMED THAT THE INDONESIANS LOOTED MANY OF THE POSSESSIONS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION, INCLUDING RADIOS AND EVEN CARS, AND SENT THEM BACK TO JAVA ON SHIPS. THE SECOND LETTER SAID THAT MANY OF THE INHABITANTS OF DILI HAD GONE TO THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE THE ATTACK, BUT OF THOSE THAT REMAINED, 80 PER CENT OF THE MEN WERE KILLED BY INDONESIAN TROOPS. THE WRITER SAID THAT PEOPLE WERE AFRAID TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSES AND THAT THEIR FOOD SITUATION WAS DESPERATE. THE INDONESIANS WERE GIVING OUT RATIONS OF RICE BUT NO MEAT OR VEGETABLES WERE AVAILABLE. ACCOUNTS, VIA TAIWAN, FROM OTHER CHINESE SOURCES IN TIMOR SUPPORTED THESE REPORTS. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT THE INDONESIANS HAD MACHINE-GUNNED A GROUP OF CHINESE WHO HAD IN FACT GONE OUT TO GREET THE INVADERS. ANOTHER TOLD OF INDONESIAN TROOPS ENTERING A CHINESE HOUSE, WHERE EIGHT FAMILIES HAD GATHERED TOGETHER, AND SHOOTING ALL OF THE MEN. THE CHINESE ALSO REPORTED THAT

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THE INDONESIANS HAD KILLED NEARLY ALL THE UDT PRISONERS AND ALMOST ALL THE TIMORESE THEY ENCOUNTERED IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE INVASION. UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST DISTURBING OF THESE REPORTS, HOWEVER, WAS THE REPORTED STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS IN JAKARTA BY LOPES DA CRUZ THAT ABOUT 60,000 TIMORESE, "MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN" HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING. HE ADMITTED THAT ALTHOUGH EXCESSES HAD BEEN COMMITTED, THESE HAD BEEN IN RESPONSE TO "FRETILIN CRUELITIES". HAMISH MACDONALD, A SYDNEY MORNING HERALD JOURNALIST WHO REPORTED THE REVELATIONS OF LOPES DA CRUZ, ALSO REPORTED IN HIS ARTICLE THAT "THE INDONESIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE SHOCKED AT THE BEHAVIOUR OF SOME UNITS WHOSE DISCIPLINE BROKE DOWN SERIOUSLY AND WENT FAR BEYOND THE 'GET TOUGH' ORDER". HE WROTE THAT IN JANUARY CERTAIN UNITS, MAINLY FROM THE EAST JAVA BRAWIJAYA DIVISION, WERE WITHDRAWN FROM TIMOR BECAUSE OF THESE EXCESSES.

THE FIGURE OF 60,000 GIVEN BY DA CRUZ IS ALL THE MORE

EXTRAORDINARY WHEN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ICRC, THAT IN THE CIVIL WAR ITSELF LESS THAN 3,000 PEOPLE HAD DIED IN THE FIGHTING, IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE INDISCRIMINATE SLAUGHTER OF NEARLY 60,000 PEOPLE IN LESS THAN 2 MONTHS

BY A FORCE OF ABOUT 20,000 TROOPS PRESENTS A HORRIFYING PICTURE OF THE WANTON SLAUGHTER OF 10 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF EAST TIMOR. PERHAPS THIS FIGURE IS AN EXAGGERATION OF THE EXTENT OF THE KILLINGS BUT THE SUBSEQUENT SUGGESTION THAT WHAT DA CRUZ HAD INTENDED WAS "CASUALTIES", WHICH INCLUDED THE 40,000 REFUGEES IN WEST TIMOR, CANNOT BE ACCEPTED, IF ONLY BECAUSE THE UDT LEADER SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED HIS STATEMENT THAT 50,000 TIMORESE HAD BEEN "MASSACRED". FURTHERMORE, TWO SEPARATE SOURCES WHO RECENTLY HAD CONTACT WITH UDT MEMBERS OF THE PGET SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE FIGURE OF 50,000 TIMORESE FATALITIES HAD BEEN CONTAINED IN A REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL

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THE INDONESIAN RED CROSS TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT. THE WESTERN NEWSMEN WHO ACCOMPANIED ADAM MALIK ON HIS FLEETING AND CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED VISIT TO EAST TIMOR IN JANUARY WERE HARDLY IN A POSITION TO THROW ANY LIGHT ON WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED AFTER THE INVASION. THE BRIEF NEWS FILM WHICH EMERGED FROM THIS VISIT PORTRAYED A SULLEN, INTIMIDATED POPULATION, PRESENTING A STARK CONTRAST TO THE ENTHUSIASTIC POLITICAL RALLIES MOUNTED IN THE PAST BY FRETELIN, AND ALSO BY UDT. A CATHOLIC PRIEST MANAGED TO TELL ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS THAT HE HAD BEEN APPALLED AT THE KILLING AND LOOTING BY THE INDONESIANS. IN A LETTER WRITTEN IN DILI IN LATE JANUARY, ANOTHER PRIEST WROTE GUARDEDLY - "SINCE DECEMBER THE SEVENTH EVERYTHING AROUND US HAS BEEN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION .... WHEN EVERYTHING IS DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND SUFFERING, THE BEST THING IS TO KEEP SILENT". REPORTS FROM SOURCES WITHIN THE PGET ADMINISTRATION ALSO CLAIM THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR THE BISHOP OF TIMOR, BISHOP RIBEIRO, WROTE AN ANGRY LETTER TO ADAM MALIK, DECLARING THAT ALTHOUGH THE BISHOP HAD NEVER LIKED FRETELIN, THE INDONESIAN TROOPS WITH THEIR LOOTING, RAPING AND KILLING WERE "ONE THOUSAND TIMES WORSE". UNQUOTE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON FOREGOING AND ANY SUGGESTIONS EMBASSY MAY HAVE AS TO HOW DUNN'S CHARGES MIGHT BE ANSWERED.

5. WE NOTE PASSAGE IN FOREGOING TEXT QUOTING UDT LEADERS AS SAYING THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT FIGURE OF 50,000 TIMORESE CASUALTIES HAD BEEN CITED IN REPORT TO INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT BY INDONESIAN RED CROSS. DOES

EMBASSY HAVE, OR CAN IT OBTAIN, ANY INFORMATION ON THIS  
ALLEGED REPORT?

6. WE UNDERSTAND INDONESIA EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS RE-  
PORTED ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS HERE AND  
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WE ASSUME GOI IS PREPARING TO RESPOND TO CHARGES.  
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## Message Attributes

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